

# WAMBOIN

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## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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# The Whisper

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**August 2009 CIRCULATION: 1,145**

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, which started the Whisper in 1981 and continues to own it. This Newsletter is distributed to all RMBs in Wamboin and Bywong at the start of each month, except January. Editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Contributions from residents are valued and the main content. Please email them to [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or mail them. The deadline for the next issue is always the last Sunday of the month, 7 pm, so for the September 2009 Whisper the deadline is Sunday, August 30, 2009, 7:00 pm, and it will go to deliverers 5 days later.

### **LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES Fire/Police/Ambulance - Dial 000 All Hours**

**Bungendore Police 6238 1244 Wamboin Fire Brigade Info Centre 6238-3396 Ambulance Bookings 131233**

#### **WAMBOIN FACILITIES AND CONTACTS**

<b>Wamboin Community Assn</b>	Helen Montesin	President	6238-3208
<b>Bywong Community Assn</b>	Nora Stewart	President	6230-3305 or <a href="http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au">www.bywongcommunity.org.au</a>
<b>Fire Brigade</b>	Andrew Dunn	Captain	0409-991-340 bh 6238 1849 ah
<b>Wamboin Markets</b>	Joan Mason	Contact	6238 3258
<b>Sutton School Playgroup</b>	Rosemary Semecky	Convener	6230-3807
<b>Landcare</b>	Roger Good	President	6236-9048
<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison	Bungendore	6238-1333
<b>Breastfeeding Assoc.</b>	Belinda Dennis	Community Educator	6236 9979
<b>Emergency Services</b>	NSW Call Centre	Staff	132-500
<b>Emergency Services Admin</b>	Colin Brown	Controller	6238-1067
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Peter Greenwood	JP	6238-3358
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Keith France	JP	6238-3596
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Margaret Fletcher	JP	6238-1211
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Jill Sedaitis	JP	6236-9559
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Tony Holland	JP	6238-3907
<b>Wamboin Scout Group</b>	Peter Harrison	Contact Person	6238-3525
<b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>	Robyn Slater	Senior Instructor	6238-3472
<b>Gearys Gap Pony Club</b>	Leigh-Anne Barlow	Secretary	6238-3376
<b>Wamboin Play Group</b>	Angie Matsinos	Convener	6238-0334
<b>Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason	Bookings	6238-3258
<b>Church, Anglican</b>	Robyn Robertson	Warden	6238-3202
<b>Christian Prayer Group</b>	Steve & Imelda Taylor	Contacts	6238-3220
<b>KYB Bible Study Group</b>	Amanda Axelby	Contact	6238-0871
<b>Golf</b>	Peter Greenwood	Golfer	6238-3358
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	Wildcare	Helpline	6299-1966
<b>Wonderful Women Of Wamboin</b>	Claire Ayling	Convener	6238-3347
<b>Lake George Day VIEW Club</b>	Pauline Segeri	Contact	6238-1996
<b>Wamboin Bookgroup</b>	Alice Scott	Secretary	6238 3178

#### **THE YOUNG WAMBOIN ENTREPRENEURS**

Ashleigh Caird, babysitting .....	6238 0746.
Deanne Brucic, babysitting & petsitting .....	6238-1884
Jess, Ellen and Nicole Smith, petsitting (experienced with horses) .....	6238-3115
Fiona Skea, babysitting .....	6238-3290
Rebecca Purdie, petsitting .....	6238-3343
Gabrielle Simpkin, babysitting and petsitting .....	6238-1335
Elena Sutcliffe, petsitting .....	6238-3228
Jack and Matilda Whitney, pet care .....	6238 3059

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## Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs

**Waste Management** – It was pleasing to see a response rate of more than 50% to the recent Waste Management Survey. Processing of the survey is now complete and the results will be made public with the release of the Business Papers for the August meeting of Council. A full analysis of the results will be provided in the September edition of the Whisper. Thank you to all the residents who took the time to complete their survey and to the committee for all their hard work on the survey.

**Noticeboard on corner of Norton and Bungendore Roads** – This noticeboard is in a very poor state. Jenny and Steve Richards have kindly offered to repair it. It will need to be taken down for a while to complete the repairs. Hopefully, this will not cause too much inconvenience.

**Norton Road** – The roadworks on Norton Road are finally progressing. Please be careful and patient when driving through the construction zone. In particular, obey the speed limits which are enforceable.

**Curry Night** – Wamboin's annual Curry Night will be on **15<sup>th</sup> August**. See details elsewhere in the Whisper.

**Wamboin Community Association** – The next WCA meeting is on **18<sup>th</sup> August at 7:30pm at the Wamboin Community Hall**. Everybody is welcome to attend.

**Wamboin Produce Markets** – After a very successful season, the markets are now in recess until spring. The next markets will be on **19<sup>th</sup> September** from 9:00am until noon.

**Bonfire Night** – Preparations have begun for Wamboin's annual fireworks and bonfire which will be held on **26<sup>th</sup> September**. Donations of suitable material to the bonfire pile on the oval are now being gratefully accepted. It is a night not to be missed – Black Widow Fireworks always put on a great display and it is a major fundraiser for many local community groups. See details elsewhere in the Whisper.

**New Residents** – If you are new to Wamboin, or know someone who is, Lofty Mason has collated a "Meet and Greet" package. It contains useful information about Wamboin, including a map. It has details of the diverse range of community groups in the area. Please contact Lofty on 6238 3258 for a copy.

**WCA Electronic Noticeboard** – The noticeboard is a great way to keep up with issues of community interest and I encourage everybody to subscribe. To subscribe, simply send an email message (doesn't need any subject or content) to **Wamboin\_Noticeboard-subscribe@yahoo.com.au**. The Wamboin Whisper is now available on the electronic noticeboard.

**Calendar of events** – If you have any events that you would like included in September's Whisper, please contact John van der Straaten (ph: 6238 3590).

-- Helen Montesin ([montesin@tpg.com.au](mailto:montesin@tpg.com.au))



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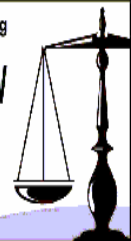
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## Bywong Community Association

**Trivia night - no question it was a success.** Another successful Trivia Challenge was held last Saturday evening, with team "XX" being the successful winners of the Bywong Trivia Challenge Shield. This is the fifth time this team, led by Jill Fox, has taken out the Shield, and we congratulate them for their effort. Most members of the team are from Bungendore, and they won with a total of 94 points.



I would like to thank our supporters of this event – Koonaburra Wines, Wagonga Coffee, Café D'lish (Peter Zimmerman) for the lovely bread rolls and the Giles family for donating prizes. Thanks also to our tireless team of volunteers – Diana Dack and Warwick Cathro for masterfully coming up with questions that have answers; Darryl Bourke for his energetic coordination of all aspects of getting this event happening, and to Kerrie Gougeon, Guy and Morag Cotsell, Bernie and

Jim Greethead, Jean-Pierre Favre, Clive Boughton, Anne Goonan and Kerry Cox. All funds raised are for the benefit of our community.

**Kids and teenagers of Bywong – where are you?** We would be most interested to talk with you about activities, events or other things that you would like in our community – perhaps a chance to meet and get together with other kids your age or who have similar interests or maybe to organise and run an event, have a page on the community website – whatever! We want to know what you want and how you might like to help. If you have something to tell, please contact Nora Stewart on 62303305 or text 0431862 853 (please add your name) or email [nora@setdancing.com.au](mailto:nora@setdancing.com.au).

**Waste management survey returns– thanks.** The waste management survey returns have come in to Council with a pleasing return of just over 50% of all surveys sent out. Thanks to all of you who completed surveys and returned them. We are now waiting to find out the results and will keep you informed via Whisper and our website.

**Bywong – Our Name: Our Place – a need for locality signs.** On a number of occasions since the Geographic Names Board approved the locality designation for Bywong, This community has written to council requesting that council erect locality signs for Bywong and other localities in the Council area. On those occasions Council advised that funds were not available, or did not respond.

Public announcements following Federal allocation of funds to local government included an allocation for locality Signs". When we saw the announcement we assumed that this referred to the erection of signs identifying rural localities such as we had sought. We have since, however, seen considerable activity in erecting street and road junction signs, but no locality signs. (We now know that these other signs have been erected by the RTA NSW, not Council.)

This association has written twice this year to the Council General Manager requesting locality signs and no response has been received.

If you would like locality signs for Bywong, please write to our Councillors via Palerang Council or email them as a group at [councillors@palerang.nsw.gov.au](mailto:councillors@palerang.nsw.gov.au) and urge them to take action.

--Nora Stewart, President Website: [www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au)



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# The Wamboin Firefighter

A newsletter from YOUR volunteer rural fire brigade compiled  
by John Taubman with help from many members of the Brigade

In June the Brigade conducted its Annual General Meeting and the following members were elected to the positions indicated:

Administrative Officers (Statutory Positions)	
President	<b>Peter Greenwood</b>
Vice-President	<i>Ian Coillet</i>
Secretary	<i>John Taubman</i>
Treasurer	<i>Larry King</i>
Support Crew Coordinator	<i>Wendy Downs</i>
Equipment Officer	<i>Col Prest</i>
Training Officer	<i>David Cochrane</i>
Community Safety/Education Officer	<i>Lemmi Briedis</i>
Field Officers	
Captain	<b>Andrew Dunn</b>
Senior Deputy Captain	<i>Darrell Tipton</i>
Deputy Captain 1	<i>David Cochrane</i>
Deputy Captain 2	<i>Keith Wrench</i>
Deputy Captain 3	<i>Geoff Foster</i>
Deputy Captain 4	<i>Cliff Spong</i>
Deputy Captain 5	<i>Richard Hobbs</i>

Cliff Spong stood down as Captain after over five years of service in that role and we thank him very much for his wise leadership during that period. Cliff will continue on as a Deputy Captain. The Brigade has expanded over the last year and the decision was taken to increase the number of Deputy Captains to five, Keith Wrench has accepted the additional responsibilities as a Deputy Captain. A new face on the Executive Committee is John Taubman who takes over as Secretary from Ian Coillet who has moved to the Vice President position.

The Wamboin Brigade has been prominent in the NSW Rural Fire Service over the last month for two reasons.

Firstly, Wamboin Brigade member and Brigade Safety and Community Education Officer Lemmi Briedis presented to the International Wildfire Management Conference held in Sydney 18 – 20 June on 'Realising our Goal Community Safety, and the Challenges we face, from a Brigade Perspective'. Lemmi outlined the challenges and strategies for over coming these challenges. Her presentation was well received by the Conference and demonstrated the importance of Brigade and community working together.

The second occurrence was the publication in the 'BUSH FIREbulletin', the Journal of the NSW Rural Fire Service with an article regarding the success of the Wamboin Street Meetings. This was based on Lemmi's presentation to the conference and subsequent interview with the author. The article can be found on the RFS web site at:

[http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/file\\_system/attachments/State08/Attachment\\_20090714\\_77EC85E0.pdf](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/file_system/attachments/State08/Attachment_20090714_77EC85E0.pdf)





Deputy Captain Dave Cochrane addressing a Street Meeting



The line indicates the level of interest!

The Brigade took delivery of a new Category One tanker during the month. Whilst this 'new' tanker might be 15 years old, it replaced one that was much older and provides considerable improvements over the old One Bravo. We now have two Category One tankers that have very similar capabilities and configuration providing the Brigade with additional capabilities whilst reducing training costs. This tanker will be further upgraded over the coming months, using community donations, to fully reflect the configuration of 'One Alpha'. The Brigade will then in effect have, in effect, two 'Primary Response Vehicles'.

It is the time of year for 'pile burning' (any fire, out of doors, not used for cooking), the RFS has a number of useful publications on this subject and others associated, they are available at:

[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

With regards to notification before a pile burn the following is extracted from 'Standards for Pile Burning' available from the RFS web site: *'The law requires that you must notify all residents who adjoin the site of the pile burn at least 24 hours prior to the work. Other residents who might be inconvenienced by the pile burn should also be notified. You must also notify your local RFS Fire Control Centre or your nearest NSW Fire Brigade station at least 24 hours before the fire is lit.'*

## WILD CARE SNAPSHOT

by Phil Machin

Recently the *Canberra Times* and *ABC 666* reported an elderly lady being bitten by a brown snake near Macs Reef Road. There was immediate media conjecture as to why snakes are up and about during the coldest part of the year – was it climate change! However on warm sunny days it is not unusual for snakes in the right environment to look for a suntan even during winter months. However it is more likely people get bitten because they have inadvertently disturbed a snake, which had found a nice place to hibernate. Wildcare currently has a mix of brown, tiger and red-bellied black snakes in care. Three blue tongue lizards are also in care waiting for a spring release – these had been disturbed during hibernation or ‘discovered’ by dogs.

Winter can be a quiet time for wildlife, but it is kangaroo Joey season and one can sense the hustle and bustle of spring just around the corner. Wildcare currently has about 30 small Joey kangaroos in care. Most of these have been orphaned due to their mother being knocked over on the road. A number of adult kangaroos are killed through road accidents or have to be euthanased due to dog attacks. After all the publicity about dog control it is amazing the number of uncontrolled dogs that are left to roam around on their own (do you know where your dog is?). Most of the kangaroos in care are eastern greys, but there




are also some delightful swamp wallabies and a wallaroo. As well as macropods, Wildcare has rescued some possums, a water rat and an antechinus. There are also several baby wombats in care – mainly with the Native Animal Rescue Group, which operates around Braidwood. Most wombats come into care through road accidents. There are several birds in care, including a galah, magpie, tawny frogmouth and boobook owl.

So, as you can see there are quite a variety of animals. It is really good to see more and more people helping to protect and rescue our wildlife. During the coldest parts of the year, many baby orphaned Joeys and wombats won't survive in their dead mother's pouch for too long and invariably die of hypothermia if left out overnight. Please stop and check animals on the roadway late at night to see if there is a baby onboard and if the mother needs to be helped too. Pull dead animals off the road to stop other wildlife being attracted and then killed too. Where you see

an animal with a red cross on it, this means it has been checked.

Wildcare is your local wildlife group and can be contacted on 6299 1966. The Native Animal Rescue Group covers the Braidwood and Majors Creek area on 4846 1900.

Photo: Wombat Sue was rescued after her mother was killed on the road.



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## Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin

### 34 Year Statistics from the Robertsons

July rainfall to 26/7 ... 31.25mm  
2009 rainfall to 26/7 ... 229.5mm  
Av August rainfall ... 55.5mm  
Wettest August day ... 54.0mm (6/8/85)  
Hottest August day ... 20 degrees C (31/8/82)  
Coldest August night ... -4 degrees C (9/8/97)

July 2008 ... 66.75mm  
2008 ... 314mm  
Wettest August ... 170.0mm (1985)  
Driest August ... 9.0mm (1995)  
Coldest August day ... 5 degrees C (5 times)

## Wamboin Fishing Club

Thanks to those who attended the last meeting. Numbers were down from the first one, but we are still getting organised. There were some good ideas brought up, and decisions made on the upcoming trip to Grabine. We welcomed another member.

The next meeting is on a Wednesday evening, hopefully this time slot will be easier for most people to attend. It will be held at the Eaglehawk Hotel On the 19th of August at 5.30pm. Anyone planning on going over to The Grabine Classic with us, is urged to attend, as we leave a week later. This will be the last chance to sort out the finer points, travel etc. See you there. -- Chris Byrne of Hogan Drive, phone 0415-636-583.



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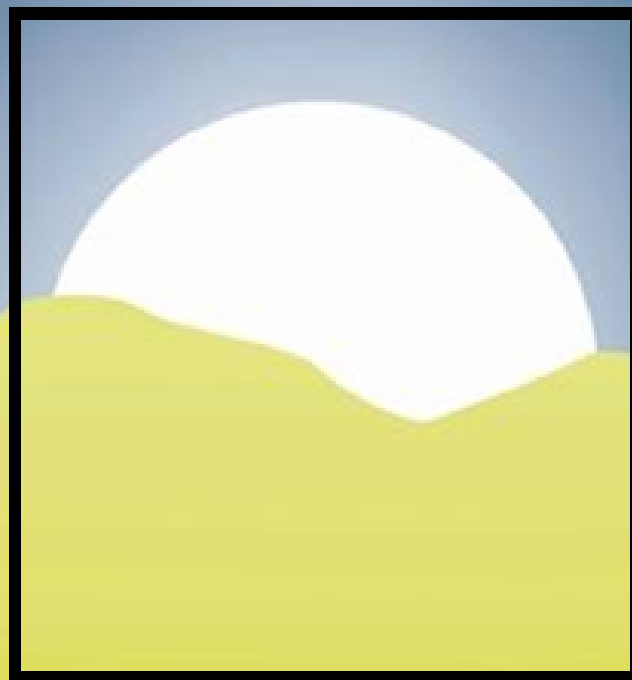
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# **Two Palerang Council Roadwork's In the Bywong and Wamboin Areas Norton Road -- Bingley Way to Merino Vale Drive Bungendore Road – Doust Road to Brooks Road**

**Drawings, Text and Verbal Information**

**Provided by Daniel Park**

**Palerang Council Roads Engineer for Capital Works**

**Arranged and Edited by Ned Noel**

Council will be undertaking two major road reconstruction projects in the Bywong and Wamboin Areas. Bungendore Road will receive a major upgrade, budgeted at \$345,516, of a 1200 metre section between Doust Road and Brooks Road intersections. Norton Road will receive a major upgrade, budgeted at \$300,000, of a 1000 metre section between Bingley Way and Merino Vale Drive. Both projects have been designed to provide safer road conditions than currently exist. Both jobs are road reconstructions with pavements designs intended to last about 20 to 30 years (dependant on traffic flow growth).

The drawing on the facing page shows the extent of the Norton Road Upgrade between Bingley Way and Merino Vale Drive. The drawing on the next page shows the extent of the Bungendore Road Upgrade between Doust Road and Brooks Road.

Council will undertake the two projects with its own resources and equipment. However it will need to appoint sub contractors to provide specialist work using heavy earthmoving equipment such as scrapers and dozers for the movement of bulk fill and sub contractors for the application of the bitumen seal.

Council resources are always the preferred option when constructing roads such as this. Palerang Council has an extensive group of skilled practitioners in this area with many years of experience in the construction field. An alternative would be to use contractors, however this requires extensive lead time in preparing a contract, managing the tendering process and administering the contract would all require considerable resources. Council undertakes this work at cost price (with relevant on costs) and does not acquire a profit margin which makes these projects lower in total cost to construct than by using commercial contractors under contract conditions.

Council does have a history of delivering quality roadworks. It continues to provide its own services and expertise to the NSWRTA on State Road projects, with proven successes such as the Kings Highway and Mayfield Road intersection project last year, the Kings Highway and Larbert Road intersection project and the recently completed \$850,000 overtaking lane project on the Kings Highway about 12 kilometres east of Bungendore, at the top of the great divide.

Palerang Council generally operates two road construction crews simultaneously. The commencement of the major construction work for this project has been timed with the completion of the Kings Highway project. That project's completion now allows one crew to take on the Norton Road project the other to start on the Bungendore Road upgrade.

The Norton Road and Bungendore Road projects have been geometrically designed to provide a consistent longitudinal and cross sectional alignment whilst taking into consideration traffic flows and speed parameters along these sections of road. The design criterion is based on the NSWRTA Road Design Guide to ensure consistency in its design approach for best and preferred practice for an 80 kph speed limit along Norton Road and a 100 kph for Bungendore Road. Both upgrades have already commenced with sediment and erosion control structures already in place and drainage works now complete. The heavy earthmoving equipment should arrive in late July 2009.

Funding arrangements for Norton Road consist of \$200,000 from section 94 contributions with the remaining \$100,000 coming from revenue – a special variation to rates. Materials alone for this project would account for approximately 40% of the total budget.

Some of the most technically challenging components of projects of this nature started months ago at the design stage. Council's design engineers needed to design a new road over the existing roadway taking into consideration current services, drainage and traffic volumes, speed limits and balancing the cut to fill earthworks. The implementation of correct and effective sediment and erosion control devices is also designed well in advanced of the project and takes into account Council's environmental obligations.

On a related issue, some Palerang ratepayers phoned Council Roads engineers to question the need for the recent resurfacing work on roads throughout Wamboin. They questioned the wisdom of using scarce council funds on "some of the best roads in the area". Resurfacing of roads is much less expensive than the major road reconstructions discussed in this article. As it is relatively inexpensive it is also an efficient method of applying a bituminous surface that waterproofs the pavement and acts as a binder to hold the aggregate which also provides the wearing surface for traffic. Road seals over time oxidise and loose their stone which then may lead to potholes and pavement failures with the ingress of water. The periodic (10-12 year) resurfacing of road seals ensures that the road asset is has a longer lifetime and better performance.



Construction works under existing traffic flows are always difficult to manage. They need to be carefully planned utilising correct traffic management techniques and devices such as portable traffic signals and/or traffic controllers. This work is generally planned well in advance of the roadworks with the development of traffic management plans and notification of roadwork speed reductions provided to relevant stakeholders. Residents can expect, over much of the next 6-8 weeks, single lane traffic through both work areas, with flagmen regulating traffic flows during working hours.

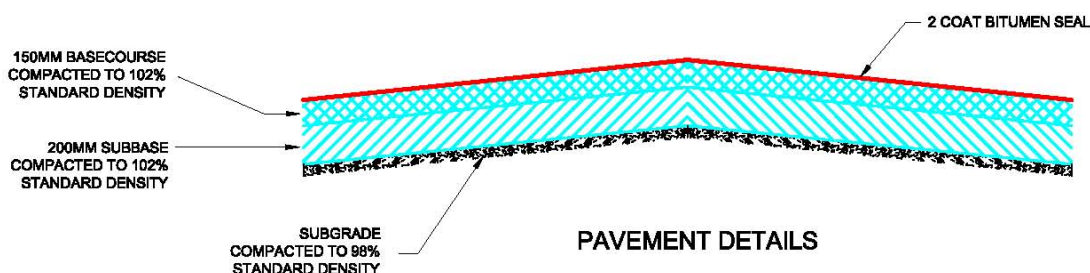
The most unpredictable factor is the weather. Rain can considerably lengthen the hoped for project duration for each of these roadwork's. It should be noted that on some occasions the work cannot continue where it left off before a downpour of rain, but rather further repair works are usually required to repair the rain damaged work before the construction actually gets back on track.

The construction of the road formation is an obvious and important aspect of these works as it provides the essential foundation for current and future traffic loads. This involves careful attention and application of the pavement material on top of the road formation. The road base quality and its compaction should meet stringent standards and at the same time ensure that the pavement is constructed to the correct design levels. If this is achieved, the structural integrity of the pavement should be maintained for its intended 20 to 30 year lifetime.

The Norton Road Upgrade will see the final road levels sitting on at least 350 mm of new pavement material. Construction will cut away the existing road and the natural material down to the required design level that will form part of the road formation (or subgrade).

The pavement will consist of two layers of material on top of the formed subgrade. These layers are separated into the sub base and base course layers. The sub base depth is 200 mm and the remaining 150 mm will consist of the base course material. These materials will be delivered on site from an approved hard rock quarry and will meet relevant pavement material specifications as outlined in the NSWRTA QA specification for unbound surfaced road pavement materials. The testing requirements for this type of material may include particle size distributions, wet/dry strength variations, bearing capacity and so on.

The drawing shown below illustrates the pavement configuration for the Norton Road project.



Drawn K Bromley 16.7.09  
Design Engineer  
Palerang Council

Three further examples from the 20 metre cross sections for the Norton Road Upgrade show three possibilities for the elevation difference between the old road and the new road.

The first drawing below shows a typical cross section where the surface of the new road will be at about the same height as the old road, but with some widening and with a more gentle slope from the road shoulder. (The drawings have some lines coloured, not visible in black and white printed copy of the Whisper, but visible in on-line version.) The top line (with a light line parallel to the heavy line and just below it) represents the new road, and the longer heavy line below them both that extends to the right margin of the page represents the existing formation.

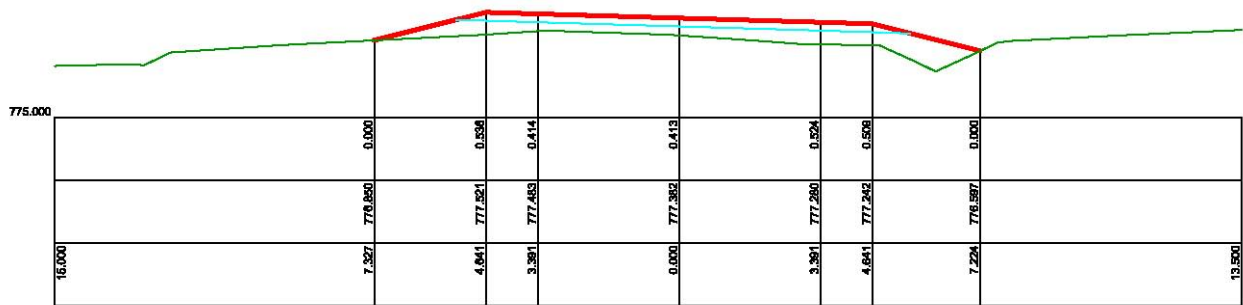
The bottom or OFFSET row of numbers shows distance from the centre line, with vertical lines at the centre line, the edges of the old road, the edges of the new road, and the edges of the new construction work. The DESIGN numbers show elevation above sea level of the new road surface. The HT. DIFF numbers show the change in elevation between the old surface and the new.



TYPICAL CROSS SECTION

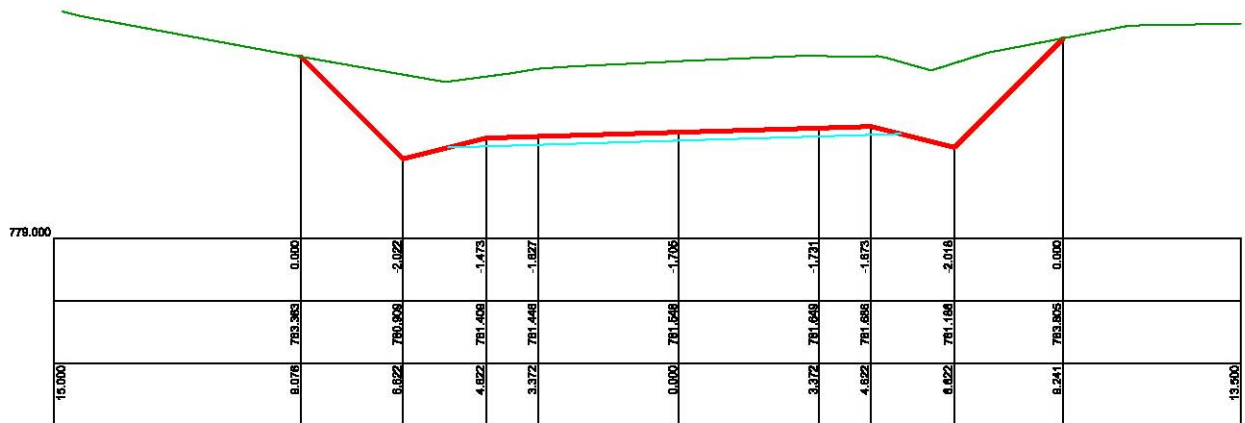


The next drawing, shown below, is a cross section where the surface of the new road will be higher, so that fill is required. The top line (with a light line parallel to the heavy line and just below it) represents the new road, and the longer heavy line below that crosses the whole page represents the existing formation.



ROAD IN FILL

The third drawing, shown below, is a cross section where the surface of the new road will be lower than that of the old road, so a cut is required.



ROAD IN CUT

The drawing on the next and final page shows the work on the Norton Road job at the intersection with Merino Vale Drive. It gives some insight into the complexities of the job.



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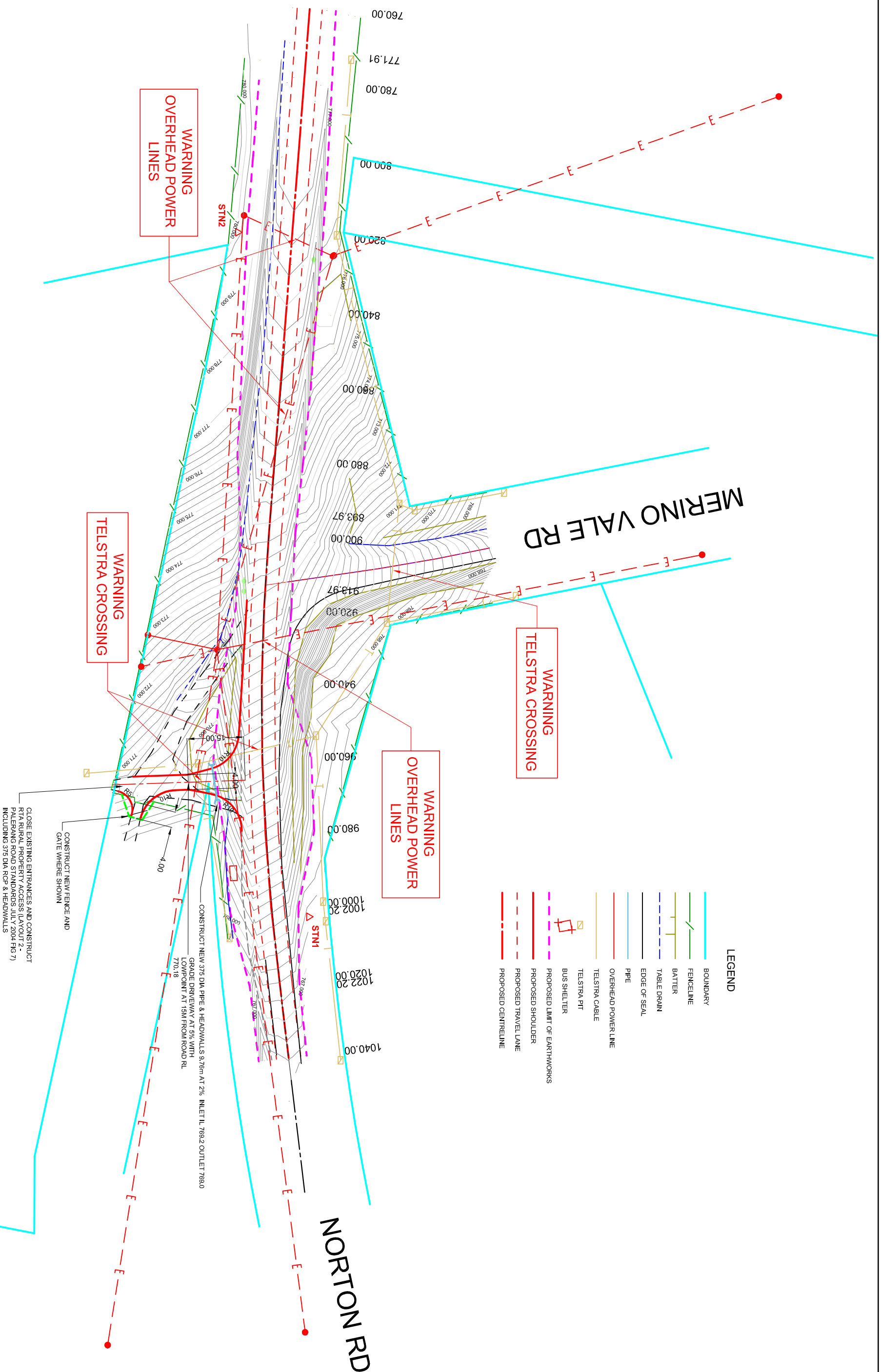
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### Notes from St Andrews

Although winter is upon us; the fortnightly services at St Andrews Church on the corner of Poppet and Norton Roads have provided fellowship, warmth and community. Our services take place at 9am on the first and third Sundays of the month (Matins and Holy communion respectively). All of the community are invited to join us and we welcome any visitors to the area.

The church congregation also has an active social life – this month we are celebrating ‘Christmas in Winter ‘ on the 8 August – a gastronomic feast to take place in the church.

At this time we, as a congregation would like to congratulate our Minister – the Rev’d Peter Grundy who has successfully completed his PhD.

For any queries regarding services please contact Rectors Warden , Robyn Robertson on 6238 3202.

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## The Great Wamboin Curry Night

by Lofty Mason

Curry cooks and connoisseurs get ready for the gastronomical night of the year. It all happens on **Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> of August** at the Wamboin Community Hall in Bingley Way **from 7.30pm**. A warm hall, tables and chairs are provided. It is a bring-your-own-everything night where families bring their favourite curry to share. All curries are named, heat rated and placed on offer. You bring your own plates, cutlery, drinks and nibbles. There is no need to book and you claim a seat on arrival. There is a gold coin donation entry fee to cover Hall hire and electricity. This year we will have a secret taster to will decide the winner of the evening who will receive a prize. The taster will remain anonymous to ensure no bribes are paid nor decisions hotly debated. Any queries to Lofty or Joan on 6238 3258.

## Lake George Day VIEW Club is celebrating its

**Fifth Birthday, Tuesday August 18, 2009.**

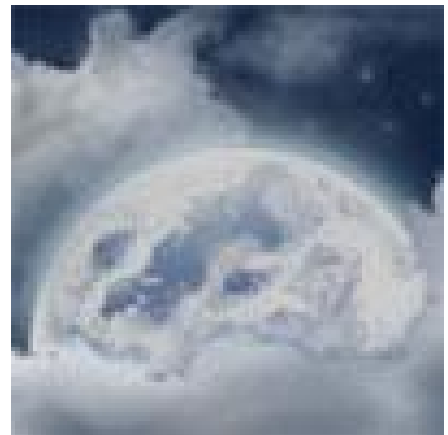
**Our theme is "Astronomy, take a walk on the wild side "**

by Lydia Teodorowych

Come and enjoy a galactic event of cosmic proportions and learn about our expanded home environment while enjoying 'gastronomic' or is that 'astronomic' culinary delights comprising of a three course meal, including chocolate birthday mudcake all the way from planet *Burra*, the best chocolate mudcake making planet in the galaxy.

Our speaker is Guy Micklethwait from the ANU, who will present information on time travel. We will also experience a short musical interlude courtesy of Eric Idle and NASA. To be part of the fun and join in the theme of 'time travel' you may like to dress as a time traveller.

**Come only if you are prepared to enjoy yourself and push the frontiers of your mind!** Cost is \$25, 11.45 for a 12 noon start at The Carrington Inn Bungendore VENUE SPACE IS LIMITED, SO BOOK EARLY to be assured of your place. RSVP [lgdvc@hotmail.com](mailto:lgdvc@hotmail.com) phone 6238 3254 by Thursday August 13 2009. visit our blog: <http://lgdviewclub.blogspot.com>



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## Wamboin Playgroup

Wamboin Playgroup are seeking donations of pre-loved dolls and dolly accessories, we are also looking for trikes too. If your kids have grown up, and don't mind passing them on, the kids at playgroup will look after them! Please call Angie Matsinos on 0262 380334, to arrange a pickup.

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### Planting Projects:

#### (1) Brooks Creek – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2009 from 9am

This will be our contribution to National Tree Day (which is actually on 2<sup>nd</sup> August) and is part of a larger project to rehabilitate Brooks Creek. There will be 200 trees to plant and guard. Bring a digging implement (mattock or trowel), gloves, warm gear, food and drink. Meet at 45 Glendale Lane, Bywong (off Creekborough Rd) at 9am. Park near the house and walk down to the creek. The Rural Fire Service will help by watering.

#### (2) Council Offices– Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2009, 9am

We have already successfully planted the front and part of the rear of the offices in Bungendore. This planting project will be completed on 23 August.

#### Next Plant Sale – Wamboin Market 19 September.

**Propagation sessions** are held on the first Saturday of each month at 38 Birchmans Grove, 9am – 11am; enquiries to Geoff on [gbu22182@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gbu22182@bigpond.net.au) or ph 62369158. The next sessions will be on **1 August** and **5 September**.

**Membership is free.** Activities are notified to members via email and also advertised in the Whisper. If you wish to be added to the email list, send a message to the secretary, Chris Fowler, [chrisft@spitfire.com.au](mailto:chrisft@spitfire.com.au).

**Planting tip:** Now is a good time to plant, as plants are not actively growing.

-- Kathy Handel, ph 6238 3596, email: [kukinya@bigpond.com](mailto:kukinya@bigpond.com)

### Wamboin 15 years ago: from the Whisper, August 1994 Circulation:390

by Robyn Robertson

From the Wamboin Community Association Report: "At our last meeting we considered a proposal to apply for a grant to help build a playground at the Community Hall. This application has now been made. Thanks to all the people and businesses that have pledged time and materials to the project. Even if the grant application is not successful, it seems that the construction of some kind of play area has already been made possible." -- Pip Deveson, President

And from the Yarrawlumla Council News: "The extension of Norton Rd to link up with Clare Valley has now been constructed and should be open by the time this edition of the Whisper is delivered.....It should be noted that this road will not be sealed for a number of years until funding is available." --Peter Greenwood, Councillor



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## Lake George Local Emergency Management Committee

by Paul Batista

Hello, my name is Paul Batista. I've been asked by Helen to write a short series of Emergency management related articles in your local Wamboin Community Association newsletter, the Whisper.

Although I am a Sergeant of Police at the nearby Queanbeyan Police Station, I am writing this on behalf of the Lake George Local Emergency Management Committee or LEMC of which I am a member. My role in that committee is called Local Emergency Operations Controller or LEOCon. That role is similar to other members in that all are part time and purely voluntary. All members of the committee have full time jobs and sit on the committee as members where we meet four times each year.

The Lake George LEMC is made up of two Local Government Areas, Queanbeyan City Council and Palerang Council. The committee sits to ensure that if called upon in an emergency to support a combat agency we appropriate plans in place. The combat agencies are those agencies who are responsible for controlling the response to a particular emergency. The combat agencies for any one emergency situation can be the NSW Police Force, NSW Fire Brigade, State Emergency Services of NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service, Department of Primary Industries and Department of Health.

At times emergencies can become quite large or complex, and combat agencies can ask for support during these emergencies or for the LEOCon to support a particular part of an emergency, in which case the Emergency Operations Centre may be completely or partly activated. When activated we coordinate and facilitate provision of resources, equipment and personnel from many fields across our Local Government Areas and Emergency Services. Unfortunately committees across this state do not have equipment, personnel, resources or finances directly available for unlimited disposal sitting waiting for something to happen. The only resource the committee directly has is a room dedicated as the Local Emergency Operations Centre or EOC where an emergency or support to a combat agency would be coordinated and managed from. This centre can be found in Queanbeyan and is ready to go at a moments notice in case we are required to support other emergency services.

The Committee is served by a Local Emergency Management Officer, or LEMO who is also the chair of the committee - his name is Mr Gordon Cunningham. He is also the chief Engineer for Palerang Council. I guess you could refer to him as the right hand of the LEOCON during an emergency, having local knowledge, emergency experience, having the use of council resources and helping to run the EOC. He also assists in the administrative aspects of the Committee.

On a larger scale, the District Emergency Management Officer or DEMO who is Mr Ross Holmes, brings together all the committees in our Emergency District which incorporates Lake George, Snowy River, Cooma Monaro, Bombala, Eurobodalla, Bega Valley together to form one large Emergency Management District which is called Monaro Emergency Management District. NSW consists of eighteen of these emergency management districts.

The committee works within our local area to ensure that communities are prepared for most eventualities that can confront them from time to time. The committee also looks at emergencies on a bigger picture, where there are more than one agency involved and helps to ensure the coordination of these multiagency emergencies runs smoothly. The committee does not have any authority as such to dictate to emergency agencies on how to combat their particular emergency.

If you have any questions, please contact myself at Queanbeyan Police Station or Mr Gordon Cunningham at Palerang Council.

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## **Bonfire and Fireworks Display**

The Wamboin Community Association will again host the **Bonfire and Fireworks Display** at the Wamboin Community Centre, 112 Bingley Way on **Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of September**. Black Widow Fireworks will provide the Fireworks display and local community groups will operate all food and drink stalls. Always a great evening.

**We now need fuel** to form the large bonfire. Suitable flammable material is required at the site at the Community Centre. This is your chance to get rid of stumps, logs, trees, shrubs etc. Bring them along and heap them up on site. Traditionally, Ian Cuthbertson of Anytime Hire performs a backhoe ballet as he heaps and packs the end product. Lofty Mason 6238 3258.

## **Sutton Public School Trivia Night**

**Saturday 29 August, 7.00pm**

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## WWoW Whispers

by Claire Ayling

Winter is upon us and the lucky ones in our midst have travelled onto warmer climes. However for the Wamboin stalwarts we continue to enjoy each other's company on Monday mornings at 10am. St Andrews church is a very warm and welcoming venue although we are purely a community group who happen to use this wonderful facility.

Our winter project has evolved - one of our group has contacts within the Q'byn Ambulance service and they have asked for some 'trauma teddies' which are give to young patients - knitting needles have been very busy and the teddies are really lovely - we have several patterns for the experienced and the beginners!!!

Over the last few months some of the group have unfortunately had health issues and it has been wonderful to have such support from within the group - we are very lucky to have found each other. If there are any ladies within the community who would like to meet other 'locals' and enjoy this friendship - I urge you to come along and join us. Please contact Claire Ayling on 6238-3347 for any other details.

## Sutton Landcare -- Recovering Woodland in our Rural Landscapes

by Gay McNeill

The next meeting of the Sutton Landcare Group is on Tuesday August 18 at the Sutton school library commencing at 7.30 pm. Dr David Shorthouse will address the meeting on the above topic.

Over the last five years the ANU and the ACT Government have been collaborating in a program of ecological research in the Mulligans Flat and Goorooyarroo nature reserves. The aim of this work is to improve our understanding of how our woodlands should be managed and to improve their conservation values and perhaps restore them to their former glory. The recent establishment of a predator-proof fence around much of Mulligans Flat and a proposal to extend woodland recovery programs to nearby areas are two initiatives that build on this research.

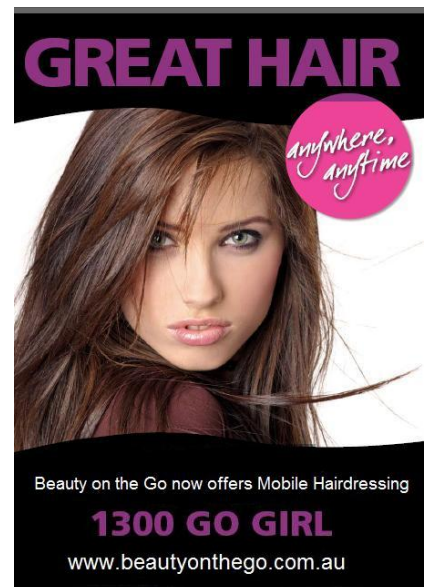
Dr David Shorthouse is currently Visiting Fellow at the ANU's Fenner School of the Environment and Society. He was formerly Manager of the ACT's wildlife research programs. He will explain the background to the research on recovering woodlands and where it is heading.

The meeting promises to be of considerable interest to local landowners and conservationists. Over recent years the run of very dry seasons has placed great stress on the few remaining areas of remnant vegetation in our district. There is widespread acceptance of the need to preserve, improve and add to what we have left. How this might best be achieved is an important and timely issue. Further details of the meeting can be obtained from Gay McNeill on 62303569.

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### How The Whisper Gets From the Printer To Your Mailbox by Ned Noel

After distributing around 200 Whispers each month for five years to other deliverers and themselves delivering about 28 Whispers to Hogan Drive residents for almost nine years, Laura and Anthony Snowden and their children accepted a generous offer from Kevin Anderson to take a turn at the job. The Whisper is owned by the Wamboin Community Association, but hopefully, in a deeper sense, it is owned by all of us who live out here. The work to write it, pay for it, and deliver it is shared by many residents. Laura and Anthony and their children have done a big part of that work for many years. To them, to Kevin for his willingness to take on yet another volunteer job in his long career of taking them on, and to Tony Bond who offered to give the Snowdens a complete change by delivering to Hogan Drive residents, thank you.

The 40 people below each spend time each month to make sure that Wamboin and Bywong residents own and receive a free community newspaper. If your deliverer has been on the job for a long time and you have a bit of time you could spare, think about offering to take over the job. If you already have too many tasks in your month, every now and then give your volunteer paperwoman/man/boy/girl a thank you.

158 CO-ORDINATED BY HELEN MONTESIN:			Ph 6238 3208	
Dean Evans	Nrtn Area frm Campbl West	18	Bill Owen	Cooper Rd. 26
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	33	Stuart Whitten	Canning Close 17
Hank Berlee	11 Poppet Rd (for all on road)	34	Alan Rope	Sutton Road 30
284 CO-ORDINATED BY SUE GANE:			Ph 6238 3463	
Joan Mason	Bingley Way	45	Margaret Heleimin	Merino Vale Drive 17
Sue Ward	Norton, Bngly to Weeroona	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona, Norton to Majors 31
Sue Gane	Majors Close	20	David Anderson	Weerona, Majors to Denley 35
Ned Noel	13 PalerancCncl+47Advetisers	60	Penny Evans	Norton, Cmpbell to Bngley 25
Kathy Handel	Yalana West	19	Ph 6238 3489	
228 CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER:				
TBA	Valley View Lane	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East 42
Coleen Foster	Joe Rocks to Norton	20	Rob Gorham	South End - Clare Valley 38
Cassie Fisher	Clare Lane	12	Lyle Montesin	Forrest Road area 60
Axelby Family	North End - Clare Valley	42	Bungendore Shop	Bungendore 10
284 CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN:			Ph 6238 3590	
Sheryl Barnes	Denley/Kestral to End	20	Brian Higgison	Deley/Birchmans – Kestral 12
Don Malcomson	Macs R -- Denley to Gum Flat	7	Rhett Cox	Macs Reef /Nwngtn to Bankers 12
Mindi Hughes	Denley MacReef to Birchman's	26	Morag&Guy Cotsell	MReef /Newington/Harriot (A) 30
Nora Stewart	Rovere Lane	7	Sandra Favre	MReef /Newington/Harriot (B) 20
Robert&Marzena Luton	Sutton/Goolabri Area	40	Phil&Pam Dawes	Donelly Rd & Lane 20
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Lane	6	Joan Milnor	Birriwa & MacsReef(GmFlt-Harr) 30
Ian&Esther Rudd	MacsReef (Bankers-FedHiway)	26	Tony Bond	Hogan Drive 28
191 CO-ORDINATED BY KEVIN ANDERSON			Ph 6236 9609	
Trevor Kirk	Macs R - Denley to Bung Rd	20	David Featherston	Summerhil / Creekborough 24
Kevin Anderson	BungRd – McRf to Smmhl	33	Diana+Keith Gascoine	Snow Gum Road 27
Kerrie Gougeon	BungRd – FedHy to Smmh l	25	Thelma Martin	Shinglehouse & Millyn 20
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### **The Perils of Whisper Delivering**

by Alan Rope

The monthly delivering of The Whisper in Sutton Road, is normally a straightforward process of driving along the road and ducking across to the incorrect side of the road so as to pull up at the mailboxes level with the driver's door and placing the Whisper in the box, the same practice as that used by the Australia Post contractors to deliver the mail. It has been my habit to make this delivery run around 5:30 - 6:00 in the morning on my way to my office. Apart from allowing priority road use to low flying semi's and giving the all-night partying kangaroo's the opportunity to cross the road to get home, the only other excitement is trying not to run over the newspaper, (usually thrown into the most inconvenient position) and avoiding the four wheel drive utility type vehicles driven by other early start workers who had obviously overslept. Either that or they are practising for the next Bathurst 1000.

However the July edition delivery was an entirely different story.

On the day of delivery I happened to have with me, our two grandchildren aged 6 and 8. So I suggested that as we were taking them home to Jerrabomberra, we could deliver the Whisper on the way, then they could help by placing a copy in each mailbox. So with one child each side in the back of the car with the bundle of papers between them we set off. Now our planners and sub-dividers in their wisdom, did not put equal numbers of properties on each side of the road, this created problem number 1. Secondly mail boxes come in different shapes and sizes. Some with large slots, some with small slots, some with no slots, some with obvious handles, some with hidden handles, some opening upwards, some opening sideways, some high, some low.

What normally takes me around 30 minutes was shaping up as a Marathon and we wanted to be at Jerra in time for dinner.

After a few close shaves between the passenger side mirror and mailboxes, we were still sane, had not come to fisticuffs, and were approaching the end of the run. Now as I said before, both the mail contractor and I normally approach boxes from the driver's side so tracks have been made for this occurrence. However this time I was approaching from the other direction. As I pulled up to this particular mailbox, I was aware that I would need to test my driving skills to stop close enough to the box for 8 year old to reach, whilst avoiding some large rocks strategically placed at the head of the culvert running beneath the driveway (placed there "because the last bloke flattened the mailbox" I was later told). As I was confident I would clear the rocks, I tuned my attention to not wiping out my mirror and stopping the car with the box adjacent to the rear door, from the window of which 8 year old was already hanging, ready to deposit copy therein.

I believed I had succeeded as the Whisper was placed safely into the box. As I released the brake the car slipped slowly forward, and down. The car wheel had been resting against one of the rocks and recent moisture deposit from above had made things a little muddy, causing the rock to be dislodged by the pressure from the car. As we clambered out of the car, we discovered the bodywork of the car below the front passenger door was resting on the ground, with both the front left and right rear wheels suspended in mid-air. As I trudged up the driveway to request assistance, I overheard the 6 year old proclaim to Grandma, "this is the best, most exciting day of my life".

Many thanks to Bill Stoll and the two unknown drivers who stopped and towed the car back onto firm ground.

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## WAMBOIN PONY CLUB NEWS

**Marion Whalan, President**

It's been a big past few months for the members of Wamboin Pony Club. Whether working on improvements to our grounds at Canning Close, wishing state representative riders well or preparing for the Zone 16 Mounted Games Championships, the pace has been hectic. Luckily we have a great group of members, both riders and their families who make all this activity possible.

From July 12 to 18, Wamboin PC had three riders represent NSW at the Pony Club Nationals held in Sydney. The Nationals are held only every 2 years, so making the selection to represent the state is quite an outstanding achievement. Wamboin member Ceilidh Armer and her horse Calvin Klein Interluck were selected to compete in the Associate (17 to 25 years) division of the Eventing competition. Ceilidh had a great week with some solid riding performances which resulted in her membership of the NSW Associate team that picked up the bronze medal (3<sup>rd</sup> overall). The Slater sisters, Katie and Lauren,

were members of the NSW Senior and Junior mounted games teams respectively and both NSW teams won the National title in each division. I should also mention Alison Gill from our neighbouring Geary's Gap Pony Club, who competed in the Junior Dressage division on the pony she trained herself, to achieve fabulous results with an individual 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall in the Dressage and also a member of the gold medal junior dressage team. There is no doubt we have some very talented riders in the district.

Followers of previous Wamboin PC news items in the Whisper will probably recognise that a large majority of our riders consider mounted games to be one of the best activities to take part in and this year was no exception when it came to the Zone 16 Mounted Games Championships held at Bungendore over the weekend 25-26 July. Wamboin had 19 members take part in four teams (5 riders per team) – you may recall the Wamboin Warriors, who have been a very successful junior team over the years

(winning the state title in 2006 and placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state in 2008), there is also the Wamboin W.H.I.P.S, the Wamboin Wicked Witches and the Wamboin Winners – yes the riders pick their own team names! All four teams this year made state qualifying times, which is a fabulous effort when some of these teams have members at the tender age of 8 years old! The Warriors were again the zone champion junior team, the Whips placed fourth in division 4, the Winners in their first ever year placed fifth in division 5 and the Wicked Witches achieved great improvement, moving up a division from 2008 when they were in the beginner division to place second in division 6. As the Club saying goes – GO WAMBOIN!



Warriors are	W.H.I.P.S are	Winners are	Wicked Witches are
Katie Slater	Amy Evans	Jess Baldwin	Kaitlin Brown
Lauren Slater	Brodie Worden	Chris Baldwin	Victoria Evans
Penny Slater	Laura Worden	Tyla Harris	Victoria Steele
Ally Durr	Elena Sutcliffe	Charlie Durr	Samantha Quick
Jack Durr	Mara Sutcliffe	R.Sutherland (C/Lakes)	Andrea Thompson

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## IT'S OUR SHOW TOO!!!!

by Marion Whalan

The Bungendore Show is for the communities that surround Bungendore, just as much as it is for the folk who reside in the town itself. The "best one day show in NSW" has been running for 122 years and is a true celebration of the finest talent, animals and produce in the area.

The show is made possible by a small dedicated group of people who make up the Show Committee; however the show relies on its general member base, which presently sits at around 68 members. Getting involved in the show as a member of the Bungendore Pastoral Agricultural and Horticultural Society is very worthwhile and very good value. Membership costs just \$15.00 and brings the benefit of entry to the Show on the day for two, a personal copy of the Show Schedule and afternoon tea for two – a member package valued at \$40.00. Membership comes up at this time of year as the Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 12 August, at 7.30pm in the Administration Building at the Showground.

Readers of the Whisper who would like to get involved in the Show should! Several members on the Committee reside in the Wamboin area and new faces and ideas are being sought this year as vacancies have arisen on the Committee. It would be of benefit to the entire community to have some new representatives to contribute to the growth and entertainment offered by the annual Bungendore Show.

You can contact any of the following people to discuss becoming involved in your local show: Bob Robertson, President 6238 1011; Rosemary Hurley, Secretary 6238 1687; Marion Whalan, Publicity Officer & Horse Steward 6238 3115 Or simply come along to any meeting – which are held the second Wednesday of each month, 7.15pm at the Showgrounds (the Administration Block is the brick building to the northern end of the main hall).

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**NEW CLASSIFIEDS**

Help reduce your carbon footprint by recycling your egg cartoons and fruit juice bottles. The bottles are being reused for homemade apple juice so must be glass, sized 750ml or 1.5 litre with a wide neck and metal lid. Basically the type you buy fruit juice or pureed tomatoes in. If you can help, please drop these near my gate or on the verandah at 413 Norton Rd (the place with the yellow sign selling local produce). Thanks Penny Evans.

**FREE ROOSTER** (2) young, healthy and precocious (Weindot cross) require a home rather than a plate. Phone 0411-566-834.

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**WCA Electronic Noticeboard** – Residents are continuing to subscribe to the noticeboard. It is a great way to keep up with issues of community interest and I encourage everybody to subscribe. To subscribe, simply send an email message (doesn't need any subject or content) to [Wamboin\\_Noticeboard-subscribe@yahoo.com.au](mailto:Wamboin_Noticeboard-subscribe@yahoo.com.au). The Whisper is available for downloading on the noticeboard, and also from [www.bywongcommunity.org](http://www.bywongcommunity.org) and at [www.thewhisper.freehosting.net](http://www.thewhisper.freehosting.net)

**CHOOKS WANTED** – Any age & roosters. Phone Frank on 6297-3523 to arrange collection.

**Beekeeping Services** Prompt removal of swarm bees and hives that are no longer wanted. Can also remove feral hives depending on location. Fee charged depending on distance travelled and the type of job required. Happy to discuss your requirements. Award winning local honey for sale. Wamboin Yellow Box \$8 kg. Available in 1 x kg or 500gram glass jars while stocks last. - Phone or see us each month at the markets! Call John - Ridgiedidge Apiary 6238 3791. [www.ridgiedidge.net.au](http://www.ridgiedidge.net.au)

For cement rendering, concreting, rock walling or landscaping phone 0418 621 744 or 6292 7089.

**Horse Rug Repairs**-prompt, reliable and competitively priced. Urgent repairs possible-drop off in the morning and pick up in the afternoon. Contact Robyn Slater on 62383472.

Large Holiday house situated in Tuross, 180 degree Ocean views, opposite shops, 2 minute walk to beach, large block for parking, available now. Discounts apply for Wamboin/Bywong residents. Please phone Cherrie 0418 621 462 for further information.

**ADVERTISING RATES:** Local classified advertisements are free, as are announcements from community organisations and clubs. Business advertisements attract a small fee (see below) which is donated to the Wamboin Community Association. Please make your cheque out to this association, but post it to the editor. Contact editor on 6238-3484 for information.

Advertising rates: Full Page - \$100 Half Pg - \$50 1/3 Pg \$35 1/4 Pg - \$30 1/5 Pg - \$25 1/6 Pg - \$20 1/8 Pg - \$15

**FOR HIRE** from the Wamboin Community Association: GAS BBQ - Party Size, Portable, \$30 (includes gas) together with \$30 cleaning bond, both payable on collection. Cleaning bond will be refunded if BBQ is returned clean. Enquiries - Joan Mason 62 383 258.

Trestles and chairs are available for hire by local residents. Hire rates are: Trestle \$10ea and chairs \$1.50 ea. Price does not include delivery or pick-up charges. Available from the Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way. Must be returned in clean servicable condition. All damages are responsibility of the hirer. Equipment must be tied securely on trailer etc. when taken (otherwise they don't go.) Time of pick-up and returned MUST be adhered to (I don't live at the Hall!) -Joan Mason, 62383258.

**FOR HIRE: WAMBOIN COMMUNITY HALL.** Bookings arranged by Joan Mason 6238 3258. Local Residents \$100, Bond \$250. Non-Resident \$150, Bond \$300. The Hall is not available for teenage, 18 or 21st. functions.

**FOR HIRE: BYWONG COMMUNITY HALL.** Suitable for smaller functions and seminars, groups etc. Check availability and booking information on [www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au).

The Whisper is a community newspaper for Wamboin and Bywong. If you live in the area and have something to say about living here that is informative, thoughtful or entertaining, think about writing it up for the next issue. For more information contact the editor on 6238-3484 or email [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au). And thanks if you have already done so.



## WAMBOIN WASTE MANAGEMENT

I am sorry that you will have to wait until the next Whisper to get the full results and analyses from the Survey. It was a remarkable response from the Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton East communities and we hope will put to rest the statements by some Councillors that representations by spokespersons from the Community Associations are not representative of the communities.

The Working Group sent out 1236 survey forms to the communities and 674 were returned, ie 54.5%. Survey organisations consider an 8-10% return to be very good. Although we tried to keep the survey as simple as possible and to obtain as much information on community attitudes and preferences, some of the responses were complex and made for interesting reading!

The WCA would like to thank those people who did take the time to work through the survey – and who did send them in! Also, thanks to the couple of residents who unfortunately didn't receive stamped self-addressed envelope with their form, but still posted the surveys to Palerang Council.

The Working Group's report to Council for the 6 August Council Meeting is nearly complete but can be downloaded in the Business Papers for the Meeting from the Palerang Council's website [www.palerang.nsw.gov.au](http://www.palerang.nsw.gov.au) by the time you read this article. No doubt Council will discuss the Roadside Bin Trial in this context as well.

I understand that Council staff are simultaneously progressing the studies for the Macs Reef landfill site and are in the process of appointing consultants.

-- John van der Straaten WCA Secretary 6238 3590



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## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

Where do I start?

We arrived home a few nights ago. It was biting cold, the vast sky was lit with millions of sparkling lights and it was silent, save for the gentle sigh of a breeze through the trees and the persistent croak of a lonely frog. It was hard to breathe in the clean, cold air. I'd been in another world where the relentless hum of traffic, pierced by sirens through the night yielded to clanging church bells with the new summer day. The only bird that ever disturbed my sleep was a pigeon...and that lone pigeon seemed to be at my dawn window wherever I went.

I was interested to see how my winter garden had fared in my absence. At first glance it looked good, clipped and neat, almost European neat, until I realised that this was Wamboin and it shouldn't be neat. I'd had lots of busy pruners and trimmers beaver away in my absence, and all that was left above ground level were those aromatic plants spurned by kangaroos, wallabies and rabbits. The correas and grevilleas had survived the onslaught as had the junipers, rosemaries, nandinas and diosmas. The bulbs were poking through and the flowering quinces, my instant ikebana arrangements, were beginning to flower. There was the sweet perfume of winter honeysuckle and a faint scent of moth eaten violets. The spicy lemon smell of daphne was missing this year; my once vigorous bush had turned up its toes at the end of last winter. But the hellebores looked healthy, obviously benefitting from their end of summer haircut, and the viburnums were covered in red with the first flecks of white flowers appearing.

In my travels I'd marvelled at ancient ruins and more ancient ruins, saw pretty fields of corn and wheat and barley, entire dairy farms inside huge barns, wide rivers and rushing streams, and mountains of rock. I'd shed a tear on a beach that could have been set in Australia and which had soaked up the blood of once young Australians, I'd seen faces in the crowded Metro that were living sculptures of ancient Rome, I'd paid 50p to "spend a penny", wrestled with an infinite array of taps and plumbing systems and doors with broken latches, twisted myself into tiny shower recesses, ate olives and cheese for breakfast on terraces that would defy Australian building regulations, and hoped the well dressed European cyclists hadn't noticed a couple of Australian fashionistas in helmets and cycling pants pedalling past. We seemed to be the only people who wore hats and sought the shade in a sea of sun worshippers.

But what I found I was drawn to, most of all, were plants and trees and shrubs. At Gallipoli, with the smell of salt in the air, there were rock roses (cistus) and rosemaries and laurels. Sadly, I came home to rock roses chewed and stripped of leaves, but the rosemary was intact. In Europe the rose bushes were in full bloom, white and pink and red, awash with perfume. I startled a big fat bee as I plunged my nose into a perfect flower. I won't be pruning many roses in my garden this year...those that remain have already been over pruned! In a stark, majestic, rock filled landscape, I saw steep sided valleys filled with pink oleanders that straggled up mountain gullies until the soil ran out and they were halted by a wall of rock. My sickly oleanders endure the drought and rocks here, but at least they remain untouched. And when I stood under 400 year old oaks with their green and spreading branches, I remembered the magnificent, untamed eucalypts of home, some as old as that, with their grey green leaves and strips of dangling bark, a haven for birds.

And then it was time to come home. The flat nasal Aussie accent, perfected by crews on homebound Qantas flights, was like music to my ears. It was like hearing it for the first time. I had missed my mother tongue and the easy flow of language and shared jokes. I was glad, in a way, to become myself again.

I returned with a suitcase full of magical images, wonderful experiences and memorable conversations.... But I know where my heart is.

I wouldn't live anywhere else.....and who knows what will pop up in my garden in spring.

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